

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

4 November 1955

Present

Members: ✓ John Lacey, State
✓ LTJG William E. Nyce, Navy
✓ John S. Shearer, Navy (replacing LTJG Nyce)

FOIAB3C

25X1

25X1

Consultants:

1. The 58th meeting convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 57th meeting were approved with the following emendations and comments:

25X1

CIA -- [] believed that the "IAD program" referred to in the sixth paragraph of page 5 was a typographical error and should read "AID program." The chairman suggested that the FDD Research Aids mentioned in the preceding paragraph were more probably FDD Reference Aids. FDD has produced only a few Research Aids, products of its erstwhile Propaganda Analysis staff, which has been dissolved. Consequently FDD will issue no more Research Aids.

Navy -- Lieutenant Nyce stated that contrary to his assertion that Navy was reorganizing its files to conform with the NIS outlines, he had found that this was not the case.

State -- Mr. Lacey stated by way of clarification that it was the State Department analysts at the working level to whom he referred at the previous meeting in commenting on State Department's satisfaction and conformity with the NIS.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

25X1

CIA -- [] recalled that he had asked FDD to investigate the feasibility of preparing a list of foreign language terms whose English rendition is not clearly determined. The Chairman inquired whether [] had intended that such a list should be disseminated to the intelligence community. [] felt that such a list should at least be maintained in FDD, but that its dissemination could be at the discretion of FDD. The Chairman stated that such a list might be very sizeable in view of the number of areas and subjects involved, but that the matter would be considered.

25X1

25X1

State -- Mr. Lacey said that the State Department was in accord with Army and Air Force in desiring unevaluated information in the FDD reports. He was not recommending that FDD attempt analysis of the information it exploits. He felt, however, that assembling information in collated form should not be confused with analysis. He further believed that the FDD effort became more useful proportionately as FDD analysts were required to exercise discernment, perception, and judgment in the selection and exploitation of their sources, and in the preparation of collations.

25X1

CIA -- [] agreed that the analysis which entered into the selection of information to be exploited was a part of the FDD mission, as distinct from an analysis of information which arrived at conclusions, and he would encourage FDD analysts to employ perception and judgment. It was his opinion, however, that the compilation is a better form for the presentation of unevaluated economic information, and that the State and CIA Biographic Registers as well as the CIA Industrial Register could not readily use information in collated form. To collate or not to collate, he felt, should depend on the subject matter involved.

State -- Mr. Lacey said that it was obvious that two kinds of format were needed if all of FDD's consumers were to be pleased. He felt too that more manpower would be needed by FDD to provide the desired flexibility in reporting.

2. USSR and East European Satellites cont'd:

CIA -- [], stating the CIA view of the present program for the USSR and Eastern Europe, said that the Agency was quite happy with the way its requirements were being met by FDD. He felt that the desired flexibility was being achieved through day-to-day contacts between FDD and Agency analysts. He was not aware

25X1

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

of any imbalance in the current program, and felt that all subjects presently covered were important and should continue to receive attention, although the manpower required on each might vary.

He expressed the view that there was danger in saying that a subject will or will not be covered, since the storehouse responsibility of the intelligence community is a continuing one. The NIS schedule imposes a system of fluctuating priorities which must, however, be balanced against the long-range needs of the intelligence community. The FDD program should take cognizance of the storehouse responsibility of the intelligence community.

25X1

[] believed also that the collation, by its nature, tends to obscure the original source of the information and to make its citation difficult. As an additional measure to assist the analyst in working with FDD reports he felt it would be advantageous to have the FDD Summary number added to each item in a compilation.

The Chairman said that a step in that direction had been made by placing the summary number on each page of FDD reports. The need for the summary number with each item, however, should be weighed against the additional checking, typing, and proof-reading which would be required on thousands of items per week. [] thought the reproduction complications probably outweighed the need for such a step.

25X1

25X1

[] believed that some relief could be afforded FDD by an allocation of responsibility for coverage to other press reading services, notably JPRS.

25X1

A discussion ensued, during which [] pointed out that a survey done by FDD had shown that JPRS did not extract all the economic information required by CIA from the Russian central press. Furthermore, the JPRS would not provide collations such as were desired by State Department.

25X1

The difficulty in making JPRS responsive to United States intelligence community requirements, and the manpower limitations of the JPRS staff were likewise recognized.

25X1

[] also indicated the need for more copies of the JPRS.

The Chairman said he would take up the latter problem with the reference people.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

25X1

[] concluded by saying the CIA is now engaged in a study of subjects in which interest is marginal and where information from sources other than the foreign press is satisfactory. FOIAB3C

NSA -- [] stated that NSA is well pleased with the present FDD program, and especially with the coverage given the USSR. She added that NSA much prefers the compilation type report.

NSA is also happy with the reporting on Eastern Europe and finds the economic coverage good and the military coverage excellent. Better coverage of the paramilitary would be desirable, but not at the expense of the military.

NSA would also prefer a further breakdown by country, and joins with G-2 in desiring inclusion in FDD reports of the original terms and ranks as they appear in the foreign publications.

If possible, NSA would like to have more information on Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, and East Germany.

The Chairman then stated that, all Subcommittee members having concluded their presentations, the time was appropriate for a summarization of the main points of agreement or controversy.

a. Format: State Department has stated a strong interest in collations. CIA, NSA, and Navy desire compilations. Air Force and G-2 components interests are divided. FDD will endeavor to find the means to satisfy all.

b. A reduction in the capabilities of AID and the air attaches to maintain their present exploitation coverage emphasizes the need to coordinate Air Force and FDD programs, and may result in further air requirements levied on FDD.

c. Exploitation manpower on Eastern Europe should be strengthened. This is recommended by State, Army, Navy, and NSA.

d. Exploitation of the provincial, rather than the central, press should be emphasized.

e. The NIS outlines are generally acceptable, and FDD should consider them in drawing up its programs.

f. A greater depth of coverage is desirable which can only be achieved by a sacrifice of breadth. Therefore, a system of priorities is required.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

g. Original foreign language terms are required in FDD reports as an aid to accuracy. This is requested by G-2, CIA, and NSA.

The Chairman continued with a summarization of the highlights of each subcommittee member's presentation as follows:

State Department - Desires collations, favors provincial press and periodical coverage over central press coverage, requests more manpower on political subjects, and recommends that more manpower be allocated to Eastern Europe.

G-2 (Army) - Is satisfied with present reporting in general, but recommends allocation of more manpower to Eastern Europe program, emphasis on provincial press exploitation, and the development of military specialists on Eastern Europe.

Navy - Is generally satisfied with the scope of the present program, but would appreciate greater depth of coverage on information of interest to Navy. Recommends allocation of more manpower to the Eastern Europe program.

Air Force - Is satisfied with present program but, as a result of a budget cut, may present FDD with further requirements in the future.

CIA - Is happy with the program as presented constituted, but would recommend more flexibility in coverage and action to make JPRS more useful to the intelligence community.

NSA - Is well pleased with the current program, but recommends an increase of manpower on Eastern Europe and supports the G-2 request for inclusion of the original foreign language terms and ranks in FDD reports.

3. The Chairman announced that FDD would draw up a priority list of subjects for the consideration of the Subcommittee members.

4. The agenda for the next meeting will be the review of the FDD program on the Communist Far East (nonscientific) which includes China, North Korea, and North Vietnam.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1540 hours. The next meeting will be held 18 November 1955 at 1400 hours in Room 2125 M Building.

25X1

C O N F I D E N T I A L